



The Voter



League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo County, California

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

September 2017

General Meeting
Tuesday, September 19, 2017
7:00 – 8:45 pm
San Mateo Senior Center
2645 Alameda de Las Pulgas, San Mateo CA 94403

Voter's Choice Act
Elections in San Mateo County are changing for 2018
And you have a voice as to how it happens!

Join the North & Central San Mateo County League of Women Voters to:

- Find out about the new Voter's Choice Act
- Discuss ways to give feedback on the county's plans
- Help get the word out to your community

The California Voter's Choice Act (SB 450) became law in 2016 to make voting more convenient and accessible. San Mateo joins three other counties – Napa, Nevada, and Sacramento – in pilot programs starting with the 2018 Primary. Changes include sending all voters a mail-in ballot and the replacement of neighborhood polling places with regional Vote Centers. This change will require many community groups, including the League, to step up to help educate voters on the changes. Our speakers are Voter's Choice California steering committee members:

- **Dora Rose**, Senior Director of Civic Engagement, League of Women Voters of California
- **Jonathan Stein**, Staff Attorney and Program Manager, Voting Rights Program, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus
- **Fred Nisen**, Supervising Attorney, Disability Rights California

This meeting is open to the public.

Please contact Susie Raye, Program Director, with any questions: program@lwnvncsmc.org or 650-342-5853.

Directions to the San Mateo Senior Center

From Hwy 92 exit at Alameda de las Pulgas South for .8 mi, the Senior Center is on the left (Beresford Park is on the right), parking is in the rear.

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Ann Kuchins, President • Marie Baldisseri, Membership Chair • Ann Kuchins, Editor

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President's Message



The lazy hazy days of summer 2017 may be waning, but our League has been far from lazy this summer. Many of us have been working energetically to reflect and plan for an action-oriented year in 2017-2018.

In late June, the new board met with the old board. We welcomed our new board member, **Norma Tarrow**, whose portfolio will be Education, with an emphasis on higher education. Norma spent several years at California State Long Beach in a variety of positions, such as Director of Human Development, and is currently a Professor Emeritus. We also welcomed back **Betty Fleming**, a former board member and board president. Betty will serve as vice president. I would like to thank **Betty Bernstein** and **Beth Bhatnagar** who are going off board for their many years of service to our League. I am sure that they will both be as involved as ever with the League. Betty will continue the much-appreciated job of preparing the *Voter* for mailing and ensuring that it is sent out in a timely manner.

In early July, a program-planning group met with Program Director **Susie Raye** to discuss ideas for programs and possible speakers. In September, we are having a program on the Voter's Choice Act. Dora Rose, Senior Director of Civic Engagement League of Women Voters California is helping us develop community leadership on the implementation of the Voters Choice Act effective in 2018 in San Mateo County and other selected counties and 2020 for all of California. Our League has the opportunity to educate groups of nonprofit leaders, service providers, civic leaders, and the public about the election model. This is an exciting opportunity for League members to get involved in the community to ensure that San Mateo County has the highest possible voter turnout in 2018. **Gayle Hardt** wrote about this new election model in the July *Voter*. For more information, go to <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voters-choice-act/>.

In October, we plan a program on Civil Discourse, a timely topic in light of recent events. In addition to a speaker, we plan to involve the audience in discussion and an interactive activity or two.

Susie Raye and I have been meeting with the president of LWV South San Mateo, **Shirley Des Marais** and program director, **Suzanne Fouche** to hold a joint meeting on immigration in November. The purpose of the meeting is to present different perspectives on the immigration issue in San Mateo by bringing together representatives from immigration law, a local faith group, law enforcement, an activist, the schools, and an immigrant facing immigration issues. The San Mateo Public Library will host this meeting on Sunday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m.

In December, we will have our annual program-planning meeting combined with a holiday party on Dec. 5.

In the spring, Susie and the program planning committee will consider the following program topics:

- Proposition 13 reform
- Human trafficking
- California and climate change with a focus on how the changes made at the national level (EPA) will effect California's efforts to address climate change
- Effect of "back-door" vouchers imposed at the national level on California

If you would like to add to the program planning discussion, please contact Susie Raye at program@lwnncsmc.org.

Marie Baldisseri organized two new member orientation meetings, one in the evening and one in the morning, which many of our new members attended. **Jackie Jacobberger** presented an overall view of how the League works and how members can actively participate. Marie was also busy at the board retreat where she went over topics, such as board responsibilities and the League's nonpartisan policy and how it applies to board members.

Maxine Terner, **Marta Bookbinder**, and **Marie Baldisseri** met to formulate a mission statement on the LWVNCSMC Observer Corps that includes the mission, vision, and objectives of this program for our League. At its August meeting, the board approved the mission statement and we hope that many of you will participate in this program to ensure the public's right to know, a vital component of making democracy work. For more information, see *Observe Your Government in Action* on p.4 of this *Voter*.

Ann Kuchins, President

Program-planning Committee: Betty Bernstein, Marie Baldisseri, Susie Raye, Norma Tarrow, Gayle Hardt, Don Jacobberger, Jackie Jacobberger, Renee Kaseff



Board Highlights

At the June board meeting:

- Heard from the delegates to the LWV California Convention how they enjoyed the workshops and keynote speakers
- Approved our League's involvement with the Woodlake HOA election in September
- Decided to have the board retreat on August 19
- Discussed having a new member orientation
- Thanked the outgoing board members and welcomed the new board members

Jean Johnson, Secretary

Yesterday the world watched in horror as white supremacists gathered in Charlottesville, Virginia. There is no place for hatred and violence in our democracy and all leaders must condemn these acts of domestic terrorism. We must send a strong message that while the freedom of speech and the freedom of assembly are some of our most cherished rights and must be protected, those rights do not extend to what we witnessed yesterday. The League of Women Voters stands in solidarity with the victims of violence in Charlottesville and against white supremacism.

Chris Carson, President LWVUS



Brown Bag Lunch with the League

Let's Talk!

Our League is beginning a brown bag lunch discussion series on a monthly basis at the League office. This is an opportunity for members to come together and discuss selected issues of the day. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, September 13 from noon to 1:00 p.m. and the issues that we will consider are:

- Free speech – What are the challenges that we are facing today?
- Healthcare and how California is dealing with it

Because people may come from work, we will start on time; however, people are welcome to stay longer if there is interest and if there is someone who can stay and lock up the office.

This is a pilot program that will run for three months on the second Wednesday of the month (Oct 11 and Nov 8). We will then evaluate the series and decide whether to continue; and if we do continue the series, we will talk about changes.

This is an informal drop-in event, but if you know that you are coming, you can email us at lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net or call us and leave a message at 650-342-5853. It is not required that you do so.

The League office address is 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo 94401. Finding the League office can be a bit difficult if you have never been there because we are set back from Peninsula Avenue. The easiest way to find us:

1. From Peninsula Avenue, turn south on to Woodside Way (Shell gas station on corner).
2. Go ½ block; on your left, next to Shell, between Shell and the San Mateo County Association of Realtors is a driveway.
3. Turn left into the driveway.
4. Drive through the parking lot; pass SAMCAR, all the way to the back.

We are the last bungalow on your right, Suite 1, our name is next to the door. Park where you like.

If you get lost, call 650-342-5853.

Jackie Jacobberger and Ann Kuchins

Observe Your Government in Action



Join the Observer Corps and be a champion of government accountability, transparency, and genuine access – core principles and a vital part of the League of Women Voter’s mission since the League’s founding in 1920. The League’s efforts in these areas reinforce our reputation of fairness, nonpartisanship, and trust.

Serving as an observer is something anyone can do. It is an opportunity for new or less active members to contribute to the organization’s work. It might be something that would appeal to students or new residents who are trying to learn more about their new community, or to recent retirees who have newfound free time and more flexible schedules. While there are no qualifications per se, ideally observers are:

- Good listeners and able to summarize and “interpret” proceedings in a fair way
- Interested in local government or issues being discussed by the governmental body that they are observing
- Able to serve as an ambassador for the organization, such as talking about the organization with other attendees at a meeting
- Discrete and courteous
- Not working a personal or partisan agenda while serving as a League observer

Be assured, new observers will be provided training and guidance. Training essentials for all observers will include how to locate the following:

- The legal basis or jurisdiction of the office or agency being observed
- The functions or services it provides
- Names and titles of the members of the office or agency
- Meeting procedures, such as time and place of meetings, availability of agenda, and minutes
- How the office or agency is funded
- State or local meetings and access laws or regulations

League observers research government agencies to assess if they meet their own performance standards for accessibility, transparency, and accountability as stated in their rules and regulations. Observers also attend governmental meetings to learn what their government is doing and to monitor whether those meetings are conducted in an open and transparent way. Experience has shown the importance of the League's oversight and that the League's presence makes a positive difference.

To join the Observer Corps or for more information, leave a message for Maxine Turner or Marta Bookbinder on the League phone, 650-342-5853 or email the League office (lwnvncsmc@sbcglobal.net).

Marie Baldisseri, Membership Director

Voter Service



The 2017 November election is fast approaching so the voter service committee will be gearing up. There are no state ballot measures on this ballot; however, we have been asked to assist at the following candidate forums:

Brisbane City Council	September 28	7:00 p.m.	Brisbane City Hall Council Chambers 50 Park Place, Brisbane CA 94005
San Mateo City Council	October 3	TBA	San Mateo City Hall Council Chambers 330 West 20 th Avenue San Mateo CA 94403

We are working on a possible forum for the Burlingame City Council. We have not determined a date for that event. If you are interested in participating as a moderator, timekeeper, or usher, email Gayle Hardt voterservice@lwnvncsmc.org or leave a message on the League phone, 650-342-5853.

Candidate Forum Training

There will be a candidate forum training on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at the League office, 444 Peninsula Ave. Suite 1, San Mateo, CA 94401 beginning at 10:30 am. If you would like to participate, email Gayle Hardt voterservice@lwnvncsmc.org or leave a message on the League phone, 650-342-5853.

Please join us. Voter education is a very interesting and essential part of the mission of the North and Central San Mateo County League of Women Voters.

Gayle Hardt, Voter Service



Meetup With State Senator Scott Wiener

Come meet State Senator Scott Wiener, 11th District (San Francisco, Daly City, Broadmoor, and part of South San Francisco) on Saturday, September 23 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Colma Community Center, 1520 Hillside Blvd., Colma.

This is your opportunity to learn first hand about your state senator's legislative priorities, to ask him your questions, and to share your concerns.



National Voter Registration Day

Register Voters at the Hillsdale Mall: Tuesday, September 26

National Voter Registration Day was first observed in 2012 to celebrate our democracy. It is held on the fourth Tuesday of September and is endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) and supported by the National Association of State Election Directors (NASD).



To commemorate this day, our League will register voters at the Hillsdale mall on Tuesday, September 26 from noon to 7:00 pm. We encourage you to join us for one, two, or more hours to register voters and engage the public in our shared responsibility as Americans.

If you would like to volunteer, email lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net, or call us at 650-342-5853, to let us know when you can attend. We will also send a SignUpGenius signup to those of you have consented to email notification.

Ann Kuchins



Board of Supervisors Votes to Study Transportation Tax for Possible Ballot Measure in 2018



At its August 8 board meeting, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the San Mateo County Transit District agreed to use Measure K funds to conduct a study on whether San Mateo voters would be open to a half-cent raise in sales tax for transit to specifically alleviate traffic. The board approved \$350,000 to be added to the transit district's \$650,000 education campaign whose goal is a 2018 ballot measure.

At the study session before voting, Jim Harnett, CEO of San Mateo County Transit District (Sam Trans), Caltrain, and the San Mateo Transit Authority (TA) was the primary presenter. He said, "We're looking to be the mobility company, not just the bus company. So as we do that, we think, how do we get people where they need to go, whether it's a bus, or on a shuttle or train or some other way."

In his presentation to the board, Harnett highlighted the following projects that SamTrans is currently working on:

- Completing the fiscal and strategic plan for SamTrans
- Coastside transportation plan
- 101 managed bus lane
- Water transit expansion, such as a ferry to Redwood City
- Maximizing bus routes
- Looking into express bus service

Harnett pointed out that SamTrans owns the Dumbarton rail bridge and high-level future plans for the Dumbarton Bridge include the following:

- 2020: Expand express buses on the bridge and improve highway approaches
- 2025: Add rail service on the rail bridge (double-tracked bridge) and continue to work on highway approaches
- 2030: Extend rail service and include a rail shuttle from Newark to Union City
- 2035: Interline the rail service with CalTrain.

Currently, there is no plan on how to spend this sales tax revenue so the board and transit district are interested in engaging the public to determine how to best meet the public's needs. Harnett made one suggestion is as follows:

- Half the funds would go to SamTrans and CalTrain expenditures. The portion going to SamTrans would provide SamTrans with a more sustainable financial viability and also provide SamTrans with the flexibility to respond to community needs.

Follow the League on Twitter!



The League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo County is now on Twitter! Our handle is @lwvnscmc. On our Twitter feed, you'll find news about upcoming LWV events, retweets from sister LWV chapters around the state and nationally, and links to news articles and posts about issues of importance to LWV members. Having a social media presence can spread the word about our chapter and reach potential new members. If you're on Twitter, give us a follow @lwvnscmc. We promise to follow back!

Joyce Delyani

The financial contribution going to CalTrain would go towards bringing CalTrain into the 21st century. At this time, CalTrain does not have a stable funding source. The aim is to design an expenditure plan around these community priorities.

- The other half would go to the San Mateo Transit Authority for their programs, which include roads, highway projects, and pedestrian projects, including bicyclists.

The Board of Supervisors voted on the following resolution, which passed unanimously:

Adopt a resolution authorizing a one-time grant of district-specific Measure K funds, not to exceed \$350,000, to the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) to conduct public outreach and receive public input regarding transportation issues, solutions, and priorities, and authorizing the County Manager, or his designee, to prepare and execute the grant agreement.

Our League may form a committee with the LWV South San Mateo to formulate principles of action regarding this potential ballot measure. Stay tuned if you are interested.

For more information, see *The Daily Journal*, http://www.smdailyjournal.com/news/local/county-samtrans-are-set-to-study-tax/article_4e16065c-7cbf-11e7-9351-27febb731c7d.html.

The video of the entire meeting is posted at http://sanmateocounty.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=113&meta_id=22178. The transportation part of the meeting begins at about 57 minutes into the video.

Ann Kuchins

Welcome to Our New Members!

Joy Addison
Marta Bookbinder
Leslie Crews
Julie Crews
Joyce Delyani

Woodlake Association Election Volunteers Needed!

The League will serve as Inspector of Elections for the Woodlake Association board of directors election again this year. The League will receive the ballots and League members will open and count ballots at the annual meeting on September 27 at 6 pm.

Volunteers
Wanted!

This is one of those “once and done” projects that requires no special expertise, just a willingness to follow instructions. We need at least six volunteers who are willing to spend two or three hours that evening. This project benefits the League financially and allows us to provide our services to the community. Projects like this also reduce the need to organize other fundraising efforts.

To volunteer, or if you have questions, e-mail me at office@lwvnscsmc.org or leave a message on the League phone, 650-342-5853.

Jackie Jacobberger

Kudos to the City of South San Francisco

In July, the City of South San Francisco announced expansion of its licensed Before-and-After-School Childcare Programs at Buri Buri and Monte Verde elementary schools. This collaboration with the South San Francisco Unified School District (SSFUSD) allows all students of families formerly on the waiting list to be enrolled in the City's Parks and Recreation Department-operated programs beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.

The city's Parks and Recreation Department operates six programs and serves about 600 children throughout the SSFUSD. Due to the increasing demand for licensed and affordable childcare in South San Francisco, the City teamed with the SSFUSD to secure the necessary facilities and funding to expand the capacity of the Before-and-After-School Childcare Programs at the two elementary schools.

Mayor Pradeep Gupta stressed the importance of providing licensed, high quality and affordable childcare. He said "The entire City Council supports this needed expansion and made it a budget priority for this year."

Sharon Ranals, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of South San Francisco, said that childcare is not an option but a necessity. "I strongly believe that that every family in South San Francisco who needs childcare should have access to it," said Ranals. "Thanks to our continued collaboration with the School District, we are now able to significantly improve availability."

The City's Parks and Recreation Department is only one of a few providers that offer after-school programs for the SSFUSD. As a result of the ongoing partnership between the City and the SSFUSD, the Parks and Recreation Department is able to offer quality care at no cost to families at three locations, thanks to grant-funded programs at two schools and the Community Learning Center, which is provided through the South San Francisco Library.

Jackie Jacobberger

Legislators for North and Central San Mateo County

State Senator

Scott Wiener
District 11
(916) 651-4011
(415) 557- 1300
<http://sd11.senate.ca.gov>

Senator Jerry Hill
District 13
(916) 651-4013
(650) 212-3313
<http://sd13.senate.ca.gov>

State Assembly

Phillip Ting
Assembly District 19
(916) 319-2019
(415) 557-2312
<https://a19.asmdc.org>

Kevin Mullin
(916) 319-2022
(650) 349-2200
<https://a22.asmdc.org>

Marc Berman
Assembly District 24
(916) 319-2024
(650) 691-2120

Action!



LWV of California is urging its members to contact their Assembly member and urge them to support the following bills that have passed by the California Senate. The following information comes from the LWVC website.

SB 2 – Building Homes and Jobs Act	Today over 1.7 million families are paying over half their incomes for housing. Nobody should go broke or hungry just to keep a roof over their head. This housing package includes a permanent source of state funding for affordable housing (SB 2), a bond measure for the 2018 ballot (SB 3) that will provide a significant jump-start for building affordable homes, and other reforms to speed approval and construction of affordable housing.
SB 3 – Minimum wage: in-home supportive services: paid sick days	SB 2: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB2 SB 3: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB3

SB 10 - Bail	Pretrial Release. Bail in California averages \$50,000, almost five times the national average, and nearly two-thirds of the people in county jail can't afford it. They must stay in jail anywhere from weeks to months—maybe longer—awaiting trial. This
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	<p>waiting puts them at risk of losing their jobs, homes, and even their children. This measure is not a get-out-of-jail-free card. The bill contains provisions for public safety.</p> <p>SB 10: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB10</p>
SB 54 – Law Enforcement : sharing data	<p>The California Values Act will create landmark protections for immigrant families living in California. Over 10 million immigrants live and work in California. They are our family, our friends, and our co-workers. Recently, federal agents have taken actions to detain and deport our law abiding neighbors while tearing families apart.</p> <p>SB 54: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB54</p>

Diana Stephens, Action Director

Make It Fair Campaign Reform Proposition 13

Editor's Note: This information came from Helen Hutchinson, President of League of Women Voters of California, just as we were sending the newsletter to print. Stay tuned for more information through email and the website. LWVC encourages you to attend!

LWVC is an active member of the Make It Fair campaign (<http://www.makeitfairca.com/>) – working to reform Prop 13 and increase property tax revenue for local governments by \$9 billion per year.

The campaign is organizing town hall meetings around California in September and October. The Bay Area town hall will be in Oakland, on Sept. 9; the League is an enthusiastic co-sponsor of the event.

WHAT: Bay Area Make It Fair Town Hall

WHERE: First Congregational Church of Oakland (United Church of Christ)
2501 Harrison St, Oakland, California 94612

WHEN: Saturday, September 9, 10:30am to 12:30pm

WHO: State Senator Nancy Skinner and State Senator Scott Wiener

RSVP: bit.ly/mifbay17



September Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Saturday September 9	10:30 am	Candidate Forum Training	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Tuesday September 12	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Board Meeting Members are always welcome to attend	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Wednesday September 13	Noon - 1:00 pm	Brown Bag Lunch with the League	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Tuesday September 19	7:00 – 8:45 pm	General Meeting Voter’s Choice Act	San Mateo Senior Center 2645 Alameda de Las Pulgas, San Mateo CA 94403
Saturday September 23	11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Scott Wiener Town Hall	Colma Community Center 1520 Hillside Blvd., Colma CA
Tuesday September 26	12 noon – 7 pm	National Voter Registration Day Register voters at Hillsdale Mall	Hillsdale Mall San Mateo CA 94403

JOIN THE LEAGUE

Where new members just like you are taking advantage of leadership opportunities and making an impact.

Name(s)

Address

City Zip Code

Phone Number (daytime)

E-mail address

Amount enclosed \$ _____

(\$75 one member; \$115 two members, same household; \$40 each additional member, same household. *Dues are tax deductible.*)

Mail to: LWVNCSMC 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo, CA 94401

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

League of Women Voters
 Of North & Central
 San Mateo County
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 San Mateo, CA 94401-1679

